

Punahou School, School Hall
1601 Punahou Street
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-22

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HI,
2-HONLU,
23-*

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PUNAHOU SCHOOL, SCHOOL HALL

HABS No. HI-22

Location:

1601 Punahou Street (lower central campus), Punahou School, Honolulu,
Honolulu County, Hawaii

Present Owner:

Punahou School

Present Use:

Classroom building.

Significance:

Oldest structure in a well-known school. Hawaiian schoold gave the first
instructions in English west of the Rocky Mountains.

PHYSICAL HISTORY

Date of Construction:

1851 as related here:

"OLD SCHOOL HALL, the one building left today from Punahou's long past,
was first occupied by the school on December 15, 1851...[159]. In 1848
Mr. Dale reports....the Mission has provided that preliminary arrange-
ments may be made the present year for the commencement, next year, of
a stone building at an estimated cost of \$2,500...

"The doors, the windows, and the lead for the schoolhouse roof came from
the states in 1850. The edifice, begun at last early in 1851, was not
completed until December...[160] the whole amount...was \$4,536."

Mary Charlotte Alexander and Charlotte Peabody Dodge,
Punahou, 1841-1941, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1941,
pp 158-160.

Changes and Additions:

According to the above quoted authors, verandahs were added in 1863 and
the inside stairway taken out in 1881.

Old View:

An old copperplate view entitled "Punahou in 1860" shows the building
surrounded by two story lanais and looking much more attractive than it
does today.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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Architectural Interests and Merit:

Now a very plain classroom building of historical interest only.

Condition of Fabric:

Apparently good. Certain details suggest a partial semi-authentic restoration within the last few years.

EXTERIOR

Number of Stories:

Two. Six bays long. 36'-2 1/2"x 60'-7" in size. Plain rectangle in shape.

Foundations:

Probably stone. No cellar.

Walls:

Coral stone blocks, 27" thick at first floor. The masonry may once have been finished with raised plaster joints like other Honolulu buildings, but they now show only rough patching. Uphill side finished in pebble-dash. Gable walls sheathed with lapped weather-boarding. The whole painted coral sand color.

Framing:

Floor construction not visible. First floor ceiling suggests concrete beams replacing original wood framing. First floor ceilings 12', second floor 11"-5 1/2".

Stoops, etc.

Four ~~concrete~~ stoops lead to the entrance doors. A wooden stairway and a long platform at second floor level give access to upper floor classrooms.

Chimnies:

None.

Doors:

Outside doors have four molded panels each, possibly copies of originals.

Windows:

Sash are double hung, 12/12 with 6 1/2"x 8 1/2" lights. The unusual glass size suggests that the sash are replacements. Frames set on outer face of masonry openings.

Roof:

Now a plain gable roof, covered with green roll roofing.

Cornice and Eaves:

Wide overhang at sides and gables, revealing rafter ends without boxing. (Originally the roofs were prolonged in lanais, as reported above). No dormers, cupolas or other features.

INTERIOR

Floor Plans:

Two classrooms on each floor. Makai classrooms each have an inside corner made into a closet and lavatory. No inside passageways or stairs.

Flooring:

Synthetic tile in all rooms.

Interior Finish:

Walls of plaster painted. Ceilings acoustical tile. Rooms show interior half-columns against outer walls, probably of reinforced concrete for bracing. Blackboards and shelving on walls.

Trim:

Windows have deep plaster reveals with plain, beaded trim. Interior doors modern. 12" wood baseboards.

Lighting:

Modern tybe type.

Heating:

None

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

Orientation:

Parallel with Punahou Street, in lower center of campus.

Outbuildings:

None

Setting:

Modern foundation planting of shrubs. Brick, blacktop and concrete walks.

No enclosures.



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For Columbia University School of Architecture

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